

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #13
June 26, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE: The World Health Organization reports a total of 228 human cases of H5N1 influenza, including 130 deaths (57%). The only country reporting human H5N1 influenza activity in recent weeks is Indonesia, which has reported a total of 51 cases and 39 deaths due to this disease.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next Pan Flu Advisory Committee meeting will be conducted June 28, 0900-1300 at Expressions in the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- On Thursday, June 22, Drs. Lisa Kaplowitz (Virginia Department of Health), Richard Wilkes (Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs) and Dale Carroll (Rockingham Hospital and Chair of the Hospital Emergency Management Committee) were interviewed by Barbara Berlin at WCVE studios for the Public Television program "Perspectives". The interview questions focused on issues related to both avian and pandemic influenza. The interview will follow footage taken at the March 23, 2006 Virginia Pandemic Influenza Summit which featured Secretary Leavitt, Governor Kaine, and Secretary Tavenner. The program will be aired in July.
- VDH participated in a multi agency planning session addressing Special Needs Populations emergency planning and response considerations.
- The Chief Medical Examiner and the Emergency Planner for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner presented to the Virginia Funeral Director's Association in Norfolk, Virginia regarding disaster preparedness and the role that funeral directors play in the disaster response. Funeral Directors were reminded of their important community role in preparing and responding to disasters from hurricanes to pandemics.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Far SW Region	July 20
Near SW Region	August 22
Lord Fairfax	June 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
Fairfax	May 26
Rappahannock-Rapidan	June 21
Central Shenandoah	June 30
Middle Peninsula	August 1
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Northern Region**
 - Robert Staltzer, Deputy Co. Executive Fairfax Co. has offered to host and is encouraging NoVa counties to collaborate in regional pan flu planning. VDH Regional team has offered their assistance to facilitate this process.
- **Central Region**
 - Central region directors met to discuss and coordinate emergency preparedness planning across the region.
- **Southwest Region**
 - The SW Regional Planner and District Planners from the Mt. Rogers and New River Health Districts presented an informational discussion with 20 DSS Directors from SW Virginia at the DSS Directors' Summer Retreat in Laurel Fork, Virginia. Issues included critical infrastructure identification, integration of state, regional, and local PanFlu plans, estimated absenteeism rates, pandemic histories in US and VA, as well as others pertinent planning questions. The presentation was well received and the Directors indicated they had a better understanding of what they needed to consider when preparing their plans.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Chesapeake**
 - The second Pandemic Influenza Task Force Meeting was held. There were many new members in attendance from several different community groups and private practice physicians. Agenda items included creating a “common clinic” node concept during a pandemic, coordinated supply planning, and a discussion regarding engaging private physician office managers in pan flu planning.
 - District Director gave a presentation at the city's Police Headquarters on June 12. Attendees included Bureau Level Commanders and with much interest, she was asked to forward additional materials about PanFlu preparedness and prevention of influenza.
 - Emergency Planner and Regional Medical Consultant met with a management team from Southeast Virginia Training Center, which supports for persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. Specific questions were addressed regarding issues ranging from communicability to Continuity of Operations.
 - Director and Emergency Planner gave a presentation to Chesapeake Economic Advisory Group, showed the VDH video, and fielded questions. Everyone in attendance received a packet of information, including the Business Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist.
- **Chesterfield**
 - Health Director and staff conducted initial meeting of the Powhatan County Government Task Force.
 - Health Director presented on pandemic influenza to staff of Senior Connections.
- **Crater**
 - District management staff met with Ft. Lee staff to coordinate PanFlu planning and discuss broader emergency preparedness activities. Ft. Lee staff included the Preventive Medicine Chief, Public Affairs Officer, and Director of Clinical Services.

- Invitations are being distributed and planning is underway for the first meeting of the District's Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee. The meeting is scheduled for July 11 at the Larkin Center at Ft. Lee.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - CPHD Planner communicates daily with local counterparts in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to plan the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.
 - Environmental Health Manager and Planner presented the pandemic flu video at the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors' meeting on June 19, answered questions, and invited them to the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit on July 20, 2006.
 - CPHD Planner distributed additional Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit invitations to the local district government officials, state agencies, businesses, schools, courts, medical providers, first responders, veterinarians, faith-based organizations, community service boards and law enforcement.
 - CPHD Planner negotiated a work scope with a contractor to meet with groups of partners for community health (i.e., first responders, government officials, schools, medical and healthcare providers, business and industry, schools, civic organizations, funeral directors, medical examiners, etc.) in each of the four counties in the district (Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell) to discuss development of a pandemic influenza plan with an emphasis on local concerns that address local community preparedness.
- **Hampton**
 - Director, Regional MD Consultant, PanFlu Coordinators at Sentara Health Care Systems and Riverside Health Care to share information and develop coordinated plans.
- **Henrico**
 - Planner and Director participated in the Richmond Regional Disaster Coalition meeting in Chesterfield.
 - Director and Epidemiologist met with the County Extension Agency to discuss disaster planning for Agriculture.
 - Epidemiologist and Nurse Epidemiologist met with the School Health Services Supervisor for Henrico County Public Schools to discuss training for public school nurses.
 - Director met with other Central Region Health Directors to discuss Community Readiness Initiative (CRI) planning
 - Director attended County staff meeting and provided information on pandemic flu preparedness for County agencies.
- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**
 - District held its Pandemic Influenza Summit. Approximately 184 people attended and initial feedback is positive.
 - The District Planner met with Frederick/Winchester Pan Flu Task Force.
 - The District signed a memorandum of agreement with Page County Schools to develop health and medical plans for pandemic influenza.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Second School Subcommittee (Of the District Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee) Meeting convened by the Danville School Nurse Coordinator and assisted by the District Epidemiologist. Discussion included: Continuity of operations plans; Stress management and the Guidelines for Educational Institutions

- Pandemic Influenza Response document which had been given by VDH to all school nurse coordinators at their annual conference.
- Update pandemic influenza address by District Director at the Quarterly Southside Area Health Education Committee Board meeting.
 - **Rappahannock**
 - District Emergency Planner conducted PanFlu training as part of Community Emergency Response Team program.
 - District Epidemiologist participated in GM Powertrain Plant Tabletop Exercise for its Communicable Disease Response Plan.
 - District Epidemiologist conducted “Indicators of an Outbreak” class for the Rappahannock Medical Reserve Corps, Inc.
 - District Director finalized agreement with Mary Washington Hospital to have the Hospital fund 50% of new Health District PanFlu Health Educator position, thus making the position a full-time contract.
 - District Emergency Planner attended new technology (including medical) demonstrations at Naval District of Washington –West, Dahlgren. Also, met with Mary Washington Hospital’s pan flu representative regarding funding/duties of VDH Health Educator contract position.
 - District Emergency Planner, Epidemiologist, and MRC Coordinator led District-wide Pan Flu Working Group meeting. The group will sub-divide into the following sub-committees:
 - Special Needs
 - Social Services
 - Schools and Universities
 - Public Information and the Media
 - Law Enforcement
 - Hospital and Healthcare
 - Public Education
 - Behavioral Health
 - Volunteers
 - Fire/Rescue/Emergency Management
 - The sub-committees will meet separately and report back to the main Pandemic Flu Working Group at its scheduled monthly meetings.
 - **Rappahannock-Rapidan**
 - Pandemic Flu Summer Intern hired and started work.
 - Completed final preparations for the district Pandemic Influenza Summit.
 - Held district Pandemic Influenza Summit on June 21st - 190 attendees - included presentations by Director, VDH Vet-Epidemiologist, Red Cross, and panel of county administrators. Delegate Ed Scott also attended and spoke for a few minutes.
 - Contacted all nursing homes again offering to present on pandemic flu.
 - Met with hospitals for continued surge planning.
 - **Western Tidewater**
 - Date set for WTHD Pandemic Influenza Drill to coincide with Operation Fowl Play: October 25, 2006.
 - Date set for the WTHD Pandemic Influenza Seminar for Adult Long Term Care and Residential Facilities: August 8, 2006 at the Suffolk Health Department Auditorium.
 - Met with Sentara Obici Hospital Director of Health Education to discuss Chempack Training and to distribute training materials.

- VDH Panflu Video to air on Suffolk Channel 8 June 26-July 2, 2006 on Mon, Wed, Fri & Sun at 10:30am and on Tues, Thurs & Sat at 7:30pm. It will be aired intermittently after these dates.
- **West Piedmont**
 - District Epidemiologist attended a Basic Public Information Officer course presented by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Skills learned in the course include press release writing, on-camera interviewing guidelines, public awareness campaigns, and staging a news conference. All of these skills can be used in pandemic influenza outreach and during a pandemic.
 - District produced refrigerator magnets to encourage disease reporting to the Epidemiologist. The magnets included contact information for the District and a copy of the Virginia Reportable Disease List. By increasing disease reporting now, the District aims to improve communications with the local physicians and health care facilities. Good lines of communication will be vital in the event of pandemic influenza.